



Kansas African American Affairs Commission

May General Meeting Minutes (Approved)

Landon State Office Building – State Treasurer McKinney’s Conference Room

Thursday, May 13, 2010

10:00 a.m.

- I. **Called to Order and Welcome** by Curtis Whitten, Chair at 10:30 a.m.
- II. **Roll Call and Introduction of Guest(s):** Commissioners Present: C. Whitten, N. Terrell, J. Barfield, H. Johnson, J. Williams. Commissioner D. Dandridge arrived at 11:45 a.m.
Commissioner(s) Absent: L. Chinn. Visitor(s): Incoming Commissioner V. Knight and Lazone Grays, KAAAC Business Development Committee Member. Staff Present: M. Edwards.
Quorum established.
- III. **Correspondence:** Folder disseminated no items needed attention
- IV. **Minutes:** Reading of the April 2010 General Meeting Minutes.
 - a. **Correction(s)**
 - i. Attendance: A clear distinction should be made between Commissioners in attendance and those not present.
 - b. **Acceptance of the Minutes**

Commissioner Johnson moved to approve the April 8, 2010 minutes with corrections, seconded by Commissioner Williams. Motion carried unanimously.

- V. **ED’s Update:** Mildred Edwards reported the following:
 - a. **General Fund** expenditures current at 76.05%. The following balance was reported
Salaries and Wages - \$ 101,431.07 (\$ 40,147.93)
Contractual Services - \$ 27,756.26 (\$ 735.26)
Commodities - \$ 1,885.27 (\$ 1,862.73)
Total Expenditures - \$ 131,072.60 (\$ 41,275.40)
 - b. **Donation Fund Balance to date:** \$ 1,421.00
 - c. **Cultivation (3), Collaboration (14), and Administrative (13) activities reported.**
 - i. A discussion regarding the Business Development Special Committee was held. Clarity was provided regarding the Dept. of Commerce led SB511 subcommittee’s goals and those invited to participate (see listing of committee members attached). A meeting of the above noted committee will be held to begin work on the revision of the proposed bill
Wednesday, June 16, 2010 at the Topeka/Shawnee County Public Library.

Action: Staff is to locate and forward through listserv information regarding the upcoming City of Lawrence Business Development Workshop. It was also noted that the listserv should be limited to job postings and community events related to the KAAAC strategic Plan.

- d. **Strategic Plan Update:** Additions and implementation of the strategic plan addressed,
 - i. **Strategy 1:** Worked to define Business Development and Employment data offerings.

- ii. **Strategy 2:** Provided updates to Facebook, Twitter and Listserv regarding SB 54 and status of legislative session
- iii. **Strategy 3:** Met with Dr. Julie Ford and Teresa White regarding educational disparities and inequities. Was recommended to become involved the KDHE/KDSE graduation disparities initiative; called Bremby to inquire; will be added to committee.
- iv. **Strategy 4:** Met with the Youth Civic Leadership Committee to discuss academy. Next meeting Tuesday, May 25, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. Recommendation was to contact Regents schools Public Administration offices to obtain collaborative support.
- v. **Strategy 5:** Provided a presentation to TABSE on KAAAC Education initiatives

VI. Board Governance:

- i. Confirmation of appointment of Veronica Knight; reappointment of Commissioners Curtis Whitten and Jerome Williams finalized
- ii. Updated Board Notebooks for General Meeting
- iii. Thank you to Commissioners and Special Committee Members from Executive Director

Meeting recessed for Lunch provided by Quiznos at 12:00 p.m.; reconvened at 12:45 p.m.

VII. Old Business

Executive Director Mildred Edwards reported on the following agenda items:

- a. **Legislative Updates/Priorities**
 - i. SB511: See above discussion regarding SB511 (ED's Update: V, c, i).
 - ii. KS150: KAAAC Arts Special Committee is working to update "The Kansas African American History Trail" document in collaboration with author Angela Bates. Commissioner Dandridge will work to provide suggestions for updates to photos included in the document. Printing costs will be shared with the Dept. of Commerce (Housing, Travel and Tourism) and are estimated through the State printer at \$2,500.00 for 3000 copies. African American owned media outlets were recommended a points of dissemination for recruiting artists for the KAAAC performers listing.
- b. **Special Program(s) Outcomes**
 - i. The KAAAC Business Development Committee will be collaborating with the SBA regional office and Rep. Melody McCray Miller to host an Economic Recovery Workshop in Wichita, KS, June 17, 2010. A youth focused event is being planned for the Fall 2010.
- c. **Special Project(s) Outcomes**
 - i. The Legislative Scorecard is in progress.
- d. **State of African Americans in Kansas Project**
 - i. An update meeting was held with ULK CEO, Chester Daniel on Wednesday, May 12, 2010. A 2010 State of Black America document was circulated for review. Document timeline is on target.

VIII. New Business

Commissioner Barfield amended the agenda to reflect the following New Business items:

a. “So You Want to Run for Office” Forum

Commissioner Barfield stated that he did not believe the forum to be within the scope of the mission of the KAAAC. Commissioners Johnson and Dandridge voiced that the event was within the scope of the mission and described instances in which the KAAAC had hosted similar events in the past. After discussion, consensus was gained regarding the timeliness of the proposed event (May 23, 2010) and that a similar events held in numerous cities through Kansas with more lead time would be more appropriate.

b. Fundraising

Commissioner Barfield did not agree with the KAAAC raising funds to support the Youth Academy, or any other endeavors. After much discussion, the following motion was presented:

Commissioner Barfield moved that the existing fundraising account be disbursed in maximum \$500.00 limits, seconded by Commissioner Dandridge. Motion carried 4:1, 1 abstention.

c. Elections

Chairperson Whitten turned the elections process over to the VP/Secretary, Commissioner Williams. Commissioner Williams opened the election process with those individuals willing to serve as President. Commissioners Williams, Barfield, Johnson, and Dandridge all declined. Commissioner Whitten offered that he would remain in the position.

Commissioner Barfield referenced the KAAAC Bylaws (Article VI, Section 6.4) and stated that he had documentation to support Commissioner Whitten’s ineligibility to serve another term (Minutes from the May 9, 2009 KAAAC meeting; KAAAC Bylaws) but did presently have the documentation with him. Commissioners Dandridge, Johnson and Whitten all spoke against the ascertain believing Commissioner Whitten to have one more year of eligibility given his initial appointment year of 2007 – 2008 and that he had not, in their opinion, assumed the Presidency until the fall of his second year of service.

Commissioner Dandridge spoke to the importance of continuity and consistency given a new Executive Director. Executive Director spoke to value that the consistency provided as a new employee and the benefit of our present Chairperson serving as Co-Chair of the Governor’s Task Force on Racial Profiling as well. Given an inability to reach consensus on the matter, a motion was presented:

Commissioner Johnson moved to suspend the Bylaws referencing Officer’s Terms for the purpose of appointing the Chairperson, seconded by Commissioner Terrell. Motion carried 3:2, 1 abstention.

As the Commissioner seconding the motion did not vote, he was asked to place a vote. A new vote was held. The motion to suspend the Bylaws referencing Officer’s Terms for the purpose of appointing the Chairperson was carried with a vote of 4:1, 1 abstention.

d. Special Programs and Public Policy Updates – not addressed

e. Special Projects and Public Policy Updates – not addressed

f. Fundraising ideas/opportunities – not addressed

Commissioner Williams presented the following slate for vote: Commissioner Whitten, Chairperson and Commissioner Johnson Vice Chairperson/Secretary. The slate was approved with a vote of 3:1, 1 abstention.

IX. Announcements *provided from the ED's May Update:*

- a. State Holiday: Memorial Day – May 31, 2010*
- b. Tabernacle Baptist HIV/AIDS Awareness Workshop featuring Bern Nadette Stanis in Wichita, KS – June 5, 2010*
- c. Economic Recovery Conference in Wichita, KS– June 17, 2010*
- d. Unity in the Community event featuring Susan Taylor in KC, KS – July 24, 2010*
- e. Underground Railroad Conference – July 29 – 31, 2010*

X. Meeting Adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Mildred Edwards, Ph.D.
Executive Director**

Approved September 9, 2010 with the following correction:

- a. It was recommended the statement “Commissioner Barfield amended the agenda to reflect the following new Business items...” in Section VIII. be moved directly under the Section VIII, Item c.*